Difference between NMDC and MMTC on Iron Ore Prices

328. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pieased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that differences over iron ore prices between NMDc and MMTC have been continuing for the last several years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Due to the recession in steel industry and excess availability of iron ore in the world, iron ore prices in the inter, national market have been adversely affected and MMTC, like other sup-pliers, had to concede major price cuts. Realisation from export of iron ore supplied by NMDC has not been adequate to meet the costs of various agencies, involved in the export of iron ore from India, including NMDC, Railways and port authorities. Matters relating to payments by MMTC to NMDC upto 31st March, 1984 have been sorted out and the remaining issues will be resolved departmentally.

Development of Wasteland

329. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pieased to state-.

(a) what is the policy relating to the development af wastelands and the role of wastelands Development Board in this direction;

(b) whether it is a fact that corporate sector, businessmen and other agencies have been invited to develop the wastelands;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above fee in the affirmative, what are the •details thereof; and

(d) what protection is being provided to the farmers and landless labourers in regard to the use of wastelands vis-a-vis the corporate sector and other agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (d) Central Government are not promoting the entry of private companies businessmen and other agencies to develop the wastelands on forest lands. The proposals for development of wastelands are proposed by the State Governments concerned. The State Governments have been advised to promote arrangements by which small and marginal farmers can pro duce raw materials for industries on degraded lands available with them.

Abolition of Sati through Administrative and Political Measures

330. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to 6tate:

(a) whether Government have worked out a package of administrative and political programme to abolish the 'Sati' system; and

(b) if so, what are the principal features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Minister of State in this Ministry held discussions with the various authorties in the Government of Rajasthan and political leaedrs at the Central Level. Home Minister also held discussions with leaders of political parties. The Prime Minister also wrote a letter to Chief Minister, Rajasthan asking for effective action against the guilty persons and glorification of Sati. A proposal to bring about Central Legislatioh for the pre vention of Sati is under consideration.